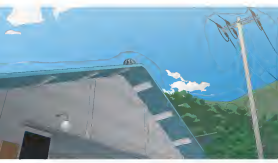
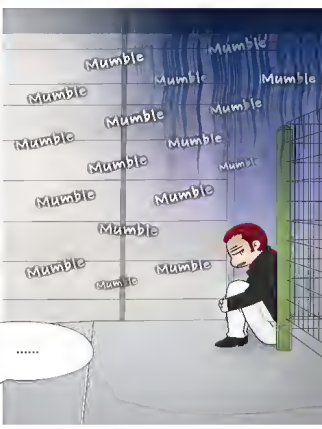


Jake...worked here?
Jake didn't tell you?
How long have you been dating him?

No...
We're not...

True... I used to study with Jake's father,
So I watched him grow up,
he doesn't really talk about himself much.
He doesn't listen...
He doesn't listen to other
people at all.

Mumble
Mumble
Mumble
Hmm?


Mumble
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Mumble
Mumble
Mumble
.....

Poop
Dog
Poop
Dog
Poop
Dog
Poop
Dog
Poop
Dog
Poop
Dog

Hey, sir.
Jake's friend?!

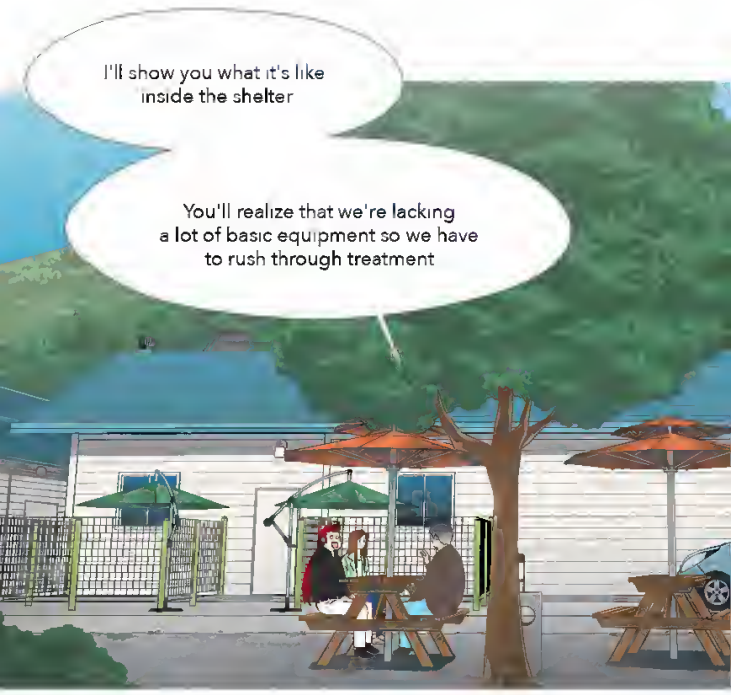
It's hard work, right? Come rest over here.

Ah...yes.
I'm sorry. I've never done this bef...
There's no need to be sorry. I'm grateful you're here to help.

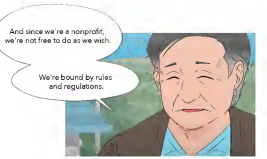
Your friends are all working hard, you should come sit down and take a break.

Ah... thank you.

Now.
Where were we?
Yes, please.


I'll show you what it's like inside the shelter
You'll realize that we're lacking a lot of basic equipment so we have to rush through treatment

We're a non-profit so we can't operate without donations,
but we're lacking in funding... and manpower.

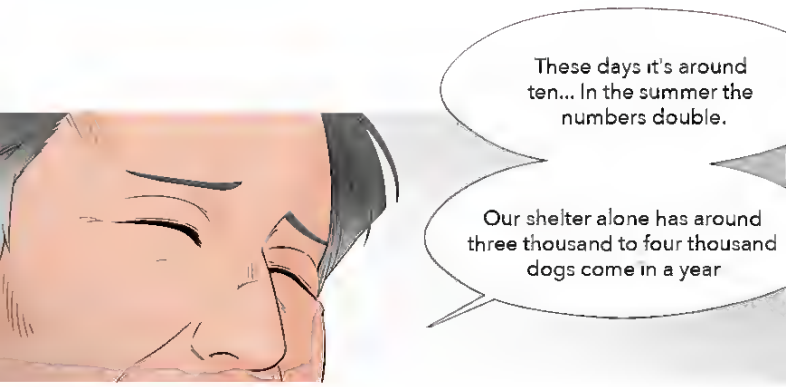

And since we're a nonprofit, we're not free to do as we wish.
We're bound by rules and regulations.

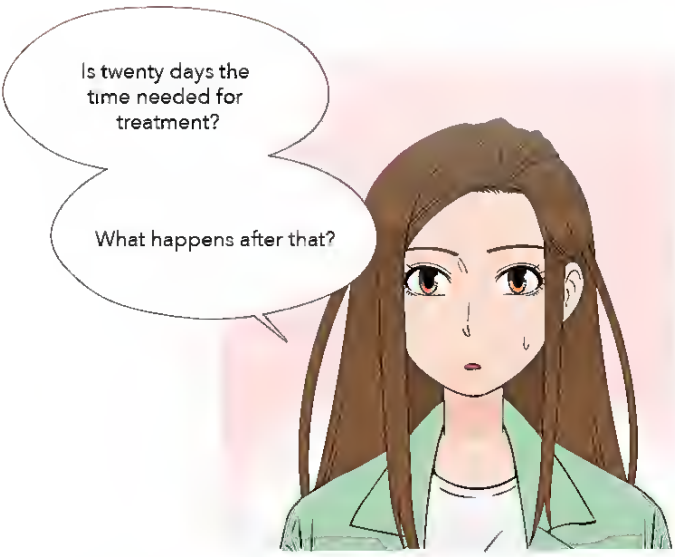
We can't keep them here for long. There are limits to the number of animals we can keep here...

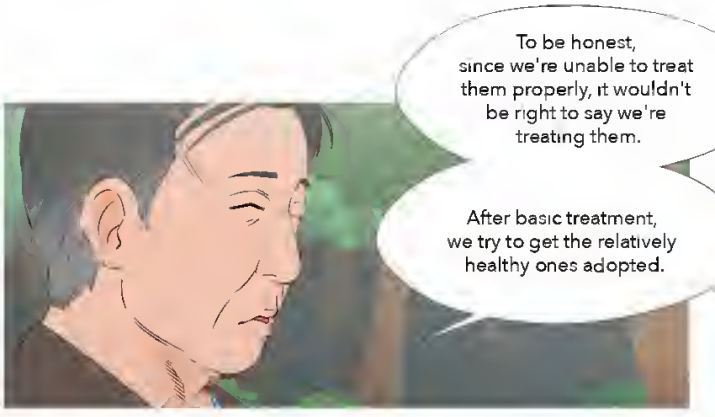
So...
They're only given twenty days.

We get around ten new dogs every day...
Of those ten, only one has its owner come to retrieve it.

Ten a day? So many...


These days it's around ten... In the summer the numbers double.
Our shelter alone has around three thousand to four thousand dogs come in a year


Is twenty days the time needed for treatment?
What happens after that?


To be honest, since we're unable to treat them properly, it wouldn't be right to say we're treating them.
After basic treatment, we try to get the relatively healthy ones adopted.

Those twenty days...

HEART OF A COMPANION

Author/Artist : Dae Eui Hong

You can't possibly mean...
That means...
Yes. After the twenty days are up...

We have to euthanize them... according to the rules.

A lot of people oppose euthanization. Of course, in my heart, I do too
But our country is facing a crisis where we have no choice but to euthanize.

But anyone who stays here for a week... will understand that opposing euthanasia is not always possible.

...Even Jake had to accept this truth.

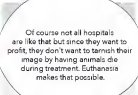
Jake was someone who opposed euthanasia more than anyone I'd met before.

He gave up his position at the hospital because of that too.

Sorry to interrupt you sir.

But are you saying that the hospital suggested euthanasia? Isn't a hospital a place where you save lives, not end them?

Of course not all hospitals are like that but since they want to profit, they don't want to tarnish their image by having animals die during treatment. Euthanasia makes that possible.

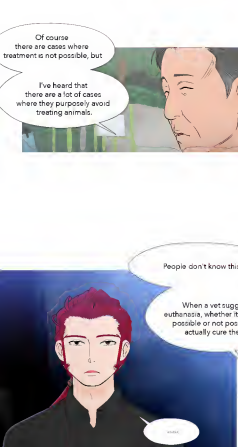


Of course there are cases where treatment is not possible, but

I've heard that there are a lot of cases where they purposely avoid treating animals.

People don't know this.

When a vet suggests euthanasia, whether it's actually possible or not possible to actually cure them...



Jake treated a lot of animals here.
A lot of people called Jake a "genius" because they thought he was gifted...

But I think the vets who called him that did so because they didn't want to admit they were incompetent.

There was an animal that Jake rescued from the brink of death.
One employee said he was truly a genius, and do you know what he said?

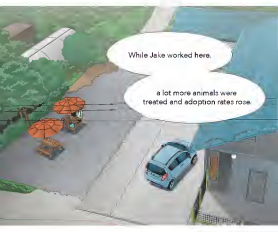
Genius? Me?
Bullshit.

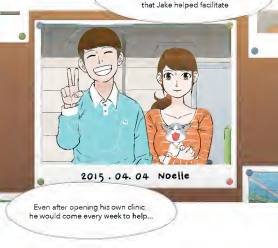
If I'm a genius, this place is filled with geniuses.

I'm just a little more resilient.
That's all.

It's true.
Jake is the most tenacious, stubborn, resilient and persistent vet I have ever seen.

He doesn't care what others say.
He focuses solely on the animal he's treating once he starts treating them.


While Jake worked here,
a lot more animals were treated and adoption rates rose.

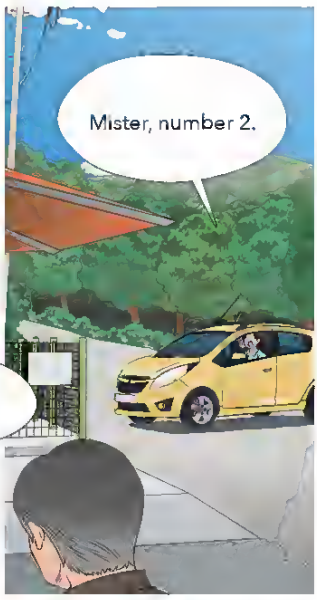

If you look in the hallway, there are still photos of adoptions that Jake helped facilitate
2015 . 04. 04 Noelle
Even after opening his own clinic, he would come every week to help...

But a couple months ago, he stopped coming and made excuses like he was treating some tiger.
Uhoh
.....

But now that I see you, I think I can understand.
It's not that...
?

I would really like to meet the person who wanted to buy a hill for his tiger if he "exists."
A little too creative of an excuse hahaha~
.....
Haha...
The person he wants to see.

Ah, that's right!
In the past, Jake...
Beep
Beep.

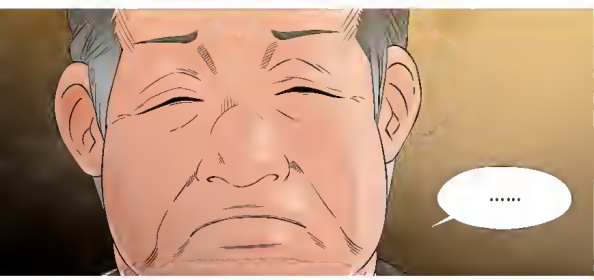

Mister, number 2.
Ah...yes.
Good job.

Please excuse me for a moment
Yes, please take your time.

What's going on?

Looks serious...

Sigh...



TO BE CONTINUED

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